



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

March 14, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each year we celebrate the day of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday as a day of prayer and fasting. It is a solemn day, contemplating the sacrifice which Jesus willingly undertook to redeem us from sin and death. Since the first historical reference to this Collection dating back to 1421, the Popes have desired that Good Friday also be a day of almsgiving on behalf of the Catholic Community in the Holy Land and for the maintenance of the sacred sites of our redemption in Jesus Christ.

The political and economical crisis of this area has not yet been resolved and shows evidence each day of unspeakable suffering. Due to these circumstances, the Catholic community is prone to feel isolated from the rest of the Church. Their needs and the support needed for the sacred places, educational and charitable institutions in the Holy Land are great. This impresses upon all of us that there is an absolute and urgent need to support our brothers and sisters in this land, and to do so through prayer as well as financial support.

On behalf of those Christians who live in the places where Jesus walked, taught, lived and died, I encourage your most generous and sacrificial support of the annual **Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land** on **March 21** of this year. I know that God our Father will reward your generosity.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ *Justin Card. Rigali*

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of March 15 and 16, 2008; the collection is taken up on March 21, 2008 (Good Friday). Collection remittance is to be made payable to ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to the Office for Accounting Services, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.)